(b) if so, whether any such cases of conducting off-campus centres by such universities/institutions have been brought to Government's notice.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences in Kochi was established as an off-campus-centre of the Amrita Vidyapeeth at Coimbatore; and

(e) if so, whether the various medical/para-medical courses conducted by the AIMS at Kochi have recognition of the UGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per the guidelines of University Grants Commission (UGC) for institutions declared as deemed to be universities, it is permissible to them to open their centres in places other than their headquarters with the prior approval of UGC and that of the concerned State Government.

(b) and (c) Do notarise.

(d) and (e) According to the UGC, the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (AIMS), Kochi (Kerala) is a constituent unit of Amrita Viswavidyapeetham, (Deemed to be University), Coimbatore. This centre has been included under the ambit of Amrita Viswavidyapeetham by the Government of India on the recommendation of the UGC *vide* Notification No. F. 9-25/2000-U.3 dated 13th January 2003. AIMS Kochi is approved by the Medical Council of India and is now a constituent centre of the Amrita Viswavidyapeetham. The degree/diploma for the courses conducted at AIMS, Kochi are awarded by the Amrita Viswavidyapeetham, which being a Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, is empowered to conduct courses and award degrees specified by the UGC under Section 22 of the UGC Act.

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research

2005. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has okayed plans to set up Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at two places-Pune and Kolkata; and

(b) if so, the amount involved in the exercise and the purpose the institutes would serve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

Cabinet, in its meeting held on 27.10.2005 approved setting up of two Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research in Kolkata, West Bengal and Pune, Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 500.00 crores each. It is envisaged to build the two science institutes of the highest caliber in which teaching and education in sciences at the undergraduate and post-graduate level are undertaken in an integrated manner.

National Eligibility Test

2006. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the procedure followed by UGC in conducting National Eligibility Test;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has lost standards required and is doing injustice to M.Phil/Ph.D. holders;

(c) whether Government have any plan to give exceptions to M.Phil/ Ph.D holders from the Central Universities in case of NET; and

(d) the policy followed by UGC in granting Deemed University status to the institutes and colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) In order to consider various suggestions made from time to time by teacher's organizations and educationists, a Committee has been constituted by the Government to review the National Eligibility Test (NET) for its utility, effectiveness and continuation.

(d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has made detailed guidelines for considering proposals for declaring an institution as deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC Act. The institutions which conform to these guidelines are recommended by the UGC to the Government for granting the status of deemed university.

Continuing Education Programme in Kerala

2007. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given as grant-in-aid to each State under the Continuing Education Programme under the National Literacy Mission;

(b) the amount sanctioned for Kerala alongwith the amount released so far and still to be released; and